- Strengthening of Medical Colleges by providing assistance for development for Pediatric Eye Units/Low Vision Units/Retina units imparting training to Ophthalmic Surgeons from Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges in various Specialities of ophthalmology for quality eye care.
- Intensification of IEC activities to create awareness about eye care activities.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e) The target fixed under National Programme for Control of Blindness is to reduce prevalence of Blindness from 1.1% (2001—04) to 0.3% by 2020.

CGHS facilities to press correspondents

2813. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PIB accredited press correspondents are covered under the Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such press correspondents are entitled for the same benefits as admissible to the Central Government employees, who once become member of CGHS, continue to have the same benefits even after retirement for life, after paying one-time fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Accredited Journalists are entitled for CGHS facilities at par with those available to General Public.

(c) No, Sir.

Procedure to establish the guardianship of mentally ill patients

2814. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties regarding establishing guardianship of mentally ill patients; and

(b) whether Government are taking any initiative to change the procedure so as to bring relief to affected persons?